

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12, 13 and 21 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 21 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, 9-11 and 14-16.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 12, 13 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nagel et al. (Nagel), U.S. Patent No. 5,362,008. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nagel fails to disclose a cassette with a stopper that selectively protrudes from an opening in the guide member and that selectively locates at a blocking position where the stopper protrudes from the opening and blocks the recording medium conveying path and at an unblocking position where the stopper does not protrude from the opening and does not block the recording medium conveying path, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 12.

Nagel discloses a cassette 1 with a package 6 of photosensitive material 8. The photosensitive material 8 is advanced from the package 6 to advancing rollers 12, 13 that relax the photosensitive material 18 in a chamber 22 (col. 6, lines 11-16). The cassette 1 also includes an elongated slit-shaped outlet 11 and a slide 17 that is moved in front of the outlet 11 at an outer side of a main section 1a (col. 6, lines 16-20). The slide 17 can be automatically shifted in response to the insertion of a properly loaded cassette 1 into a single compartment or into one of several compartments of a copying machine (col. 7, lines 30-34). As shown in Nagel's Fig. 1, the rollers 12, 13 and the slide 17 are separated from each other by the main section 1a.

Nagel fails to disclose a stopper that selectively protrudes from an opening of a guide member, as recited in claims 1 and 12. As shown in Nagel's Fig. 1, the slide 17 (which is the only structure that can selectively locate at a blocking position) is on an outer surface of the cassette 1 and away from the rollers 12, 13 (which is the only structure that guides the

photosensitive material 8 along a recording medium conveying path). Thus, Nagel's slide 17 does not selectively protrude from an opening of the rollers 12, 13.

Nagel also fails disclose a method of loading a sheet from a roll into a cassette including a step of placing the sheet between rollers that exert a force on the sheet in a direction that is reverse to a curling direction of the sheet, as recited in claim 19.

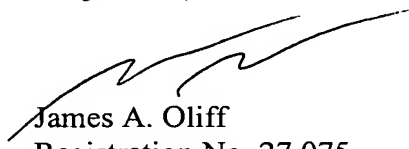
Nagel's rollers 12, 13 form a part of a means for relaxing the photosensitive material 8 so that the rollers 12, 13 do not need to overcome the inertia of a relatively large and bulky package 6 (col. 8, lines 13-23). Although Nagel discloses rollers 12, 13, Nagel fails to provide any disclosure with regard to using the rollers 12, 13 (or any other roller) to exert a force on the sheet in a direction that is reverse to a curling direction of a sheet.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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